The other nationalised banks/foreign banks have entered into credit card business very recently and details of their credit card operation are not readily available.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assessment of Import of Gold

1760. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the quantity of gold likely to be imported and the amount of duty likely to be realised during 1992-93; and

(b) if so, what are the details therof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) It is difficult to quantify the likely import of gold and duty receipt. The estimate, however, is that 30 to 35 tonnes may be imported in 1992-93 yielding revenue of Rs. 75 crores, at the present level of duty.

Under Invoicing of Bulk Drugs

1761. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Customs Intelligence Unit, Sahar Customs Collectorate has hushed up a major racket in under invoicing of bulk drug, recently;

(b) whether such instances were noted earlier also;

(c) if so, details threof and the loss of revenue during 1991 due to under invoicing ; and

(d) steps taken by Government to stop under invoicing by the importers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) In two cases of imports of bulk drugs in 1991 through Sahar airport, the value of the imports was revised upwards by customs authorities prior to clearance leading to additional duty realisation of Rs. 1.98 lakhs. There was no loss of revenue as the full duty was collected prior to clearance of the goods.

No instance, though, has come to the notice of the Government of the major racket in underinvoicing of bulk drugs being hushed up in the Sahar Customs Collectorate.

(d) A critical scrutiny of value of all imported goods is made at the time of their assessment. Besides, there are specialised agencies, such as Special Intelligence and Investigation Branches and Special Valuation Branches within the Customs Houses, Enforcement Directorate and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence at all-India level, which collect intelligence/information regarding under-invoicing and investigate cases of under-invoicing.

NCAER Study on External Balance Position

1762. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a study by the National Council of Applied Economic Research regarding external balance position as per which the rise in foreign exchange reserves did not signify any change in basic difficulties in bringing about a balance in the external sector; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the findings of the Council ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) This has been mentioned in the quarterly review of the Indian economy for the period October—December 1991 done by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). There has been a distinct turnaround in India's balance of payments as reflected in improved balance of trade position and reduced external fianancing requirements. This has restored inter-

national confidence, facilitated removal of all Reserve Bank of India (RBI) import restrictions and further liberalisation of import policy; and introduction of partial convertibility of the Rupee. Besides, the basic changes in the regulatory framework, will show results now.

Establishment of Grievance Redressal Authority for Banks

1763. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have established Public Grievances Redressal Authority to take action on the complaints received from the general public against the banks in the country ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and at how many places in the country such authorities have been established;

(c) what is the number of complaints received by each of such authorities during the last three years; and

(d) what are the details of the cases where actions have been taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b) The public sector banks have created internal and external machinery for redressal of customers' grievances. Internal machinery has taken the shape of complaint boxes at the branch level and grievance cells at the regional/ zonal offices and central offices of the banks. External machinery have been created in the form of customer service centres at selected centres. Complaints received at these centres are followed up by the designated co-ordinating bank with the banks concerned for disposal.

(c) and (d) Information relating to the number of complaints received from the customers by the banks during the last 3 years and action taken thereon is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Fraud in Car Import

1764. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the "Times of India" of the 25th March, 1992 captioned "car import fraud by PA and customs man";

(b) if so, whether Government have enquired into the allegations;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to prevent such misuse of powers by Government servants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) to (d) The Government is aware of the News item. The matter is being investigated by the C.B.I. *prima facie* it appears that a Personal Assistant in the Ministry of Finance, in conspiracy with other persons, fradulantly imported two cars on the strength of febricated/forged documents. A case has been registered under the relevant provisions of the Indian Panel Code and the Customs Act, 1962. The Personal Assistant has been placed under suspension with effect from 20-3-92. The Customs and other investigative agencies remain alert against such fradulent contraventions of the law. Intelligence is targeted against such malpractices. The C.B.I. assists the Customs authorities in such matters.

Custom Duty on Pesticides

@ 1765. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of the specified pesticides for which customs duty has been increased from 75 per cent to 110 per cent;

(b) what are the names of specified technical grade pesticides for which customs

@Previously Unstarred Question 1373 transferred from the 8th May, 1992.